In addition, *ad-hoc* grant and maintenance allowance are also payable for both day scholars and hostellers.

(**D**) **Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students**

(Rates last revised in 1998-99)

Rate of Scholarship (for 10 months)-

Sl.No.	Rate of Scholarship/Stipend			
	For Day Scholars (in Rs.)		Hostellers (in Rs.)	
1.	Group A, B & C	190	Group A	425
2.	Group D	120	Group B & C	290
3.	Group E	90	Group D	230
4.			Group E	150

In addition, various types of charges are given for various purposes.

(**E**) **Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students**.

All compulsory non-refundable fees being charged by the educational institutions are provided to ST students. Besides this, maintenance allowance is provided for hostelers ranging from Rs. 235/- p.m. to Rs. 740/- p.m. and for day scholars from Rs. 140/- p.m. to Rs. 330/- p.m. depending upon the level of courses. The scholarship rates were revised with effect from 1.4.2003.

Practice of untouchability

†3596. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether freedom has simply become a misnomer for the Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether the practice of untouchability against the people of Scheduled Castes is still in vogue despite country stepping into the 21st century; and

(c) whether Government is making efforts to usher these people in the social and national main stream with the help of a more stringent law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) As provided in Article 17 of Constitution of India, "Untouchability" has been abolished; its practice in any from forbidden and enforcement of any diability arising out of "Untouchability" is an offence in accordance with law. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are two stringent laws and prescribe punishment for offences related to untouchability and atrocities, respectively.

The State Government/Union Territory Administrations, which implement provisions of the Acts, are addressed from time to time to implement their provisions in letter and spirit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.